



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Louis District®

News Release

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Media Advisory

US Army Corps of Engineers Dredge Operating near Merchants Railway Bridge

The US Army Corps of Engineers – St. Louis District dredge Potter is scheduled to close out her low water dredging operations early next week when she completes work near the Merchant's Railroad Bridge just south of the Chain of Rocks Canal.

She completed dredging south of Chester, Ill., Friday before moving north to begin work near mile 183. It is expected that work will begin there Saturday afternoon, and will run 2-3 days.

Potter was called back to duty in mid-January when the Mississippi River descended to its shallowest depth in more than a decade and has been working around the clock in the river since then, with exception of a brief period when she was unable to work due to excessive floating ice in the river.

Corps dredging experts cannot rule out additional work requirements, but under current conditions, they anticipate completing work by Tuesday, after which Potter will return to her berth at the Corps of Engineers Service Base at the foot of Arsenal Street in St. Louis.

Potter is one of three US Army Corps of Engineers "dustpan" dredges, designed specifically to work in the sandy bottom of the Mississippi River and its tributaries. She is at the same time, one of the oldest Corps vessels and the most modern. Launched as a steam-powered dredge in 1932, she was refitted with a modern diesel power plant and other upgrades in 2001.

Editors Note: To assist with identification from the air, M/V Potter is a large (247-foot) angular, buff-yellow vessel with red trim. When working there is an 800-foot-long dredge material disposal pipe deployed from her stern.